

REMARKS

Claims 2-16, 18, and 19, as amended, are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 3, 7, 8, 10, 13, and 18, found by the Examiner to recite allowable subject matter, have been amended into independent form. Claims 2, 4, 6, 9, and 12 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 7, rather than cancelled claim 1. Claim 19 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 18 only, rather than from either cancelled claim 17 or allowable claim 18. Applicants respectfully submit that: (1) no new matter has been added to the application by the amendment; (2) the amendment resolves all issues raised by the Examiner in the Office Action of October 3, 2005; (3) the subject matter of the amendment already has been included in the Examiner's search and therefore does not require the Examiner to perform a new search; (4) the amendment places the application in condition for allowance or in better condition for appeal; and (5) the amendment does not result in a net addition of claims to the application. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the Amendment After Final Rejection be entered in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §116 and M.P.E.P. 714.13.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 – claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9, 11, 12, 17, and 19

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9, 11, 12, 17, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,179,709 (Brecht) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,665,867 (Iwamoto *et al.*). In view of cancellation of claims 1 and 17, rejection of these claims is now moot. In view of amendment of claims 2, 4, 6, 9, and 12 to depend from allowable claim 7, and in view of indirect dependency of claim 5 upon allowable claim 7, and in further view of dependency of claim 11 upon either allowable claim 7 or allowable claim 10, and in further view of dependency of claim 19 upon allowable claim 18, rejection of claims 2, 4-6, 9, 11, 12, and 19 is also moot, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of rejection of claims 2, 4-6, 9, 11, 12, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that the Examiner has found claims 3, 7, 8, 10, 13-16, and 18 to recite allowable subject matter. Claims 3, 7, 8, 10, 13, and 18 have been amended into independent form.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 2-16, 18, and 19, is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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